

PATENT

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant: Gene DIPOTO et al. Confirmation No.: 9623

Serial No.: 10/693,663 Examiner: James L. Swiger, III

Filed: October 24, 2003 Group Art Unit: 3733

Docket No.: 1291.1142101 Customer No.: 28075

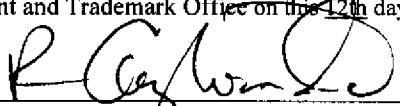
Title: METHODS AND APPARATUSES FOR FIXATION OF THE SPINE  
THROUGH AN ACCESS DEVICE

**AMENDMENT UNDER 37 CFR § 1.312**

MAIL STOP: Issue Fee  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**CERTIFICATE FOR ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION:**

The undersigned hereby certifies that this paper or papers, as described herein, are being electronically transmitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on the 12th day of March, 2010.

By   
Rachel Gagliardi

Dear Sir:

This Amendment is being filed in response to the Notice of Allowance mailed December 16, 2009, with a shortened statutory period set to expire on March 16, 2010. Please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0413.

Please amend the above-identified patent application as follows:

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims, which begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks** begin on page 9 of this paper.